

Claims:

1. A method of ablation to provide a desired set of lesions, comprising:
 - (a) providing an ablation apparatus having an elongated shapeable section carrying means for applying ablation energy along shapeable section, and a sharpened distal tip;
 - (b) shaping the shapeable section to display a desired configuration corresponding to one of the desired lesions;
 - (c) piercing an atrial wall with the sharpened distal tip;
 - (d) employing the ablation apparatus to create the desired lesion;
 - (e) thereafter reshaping the shapeable section to display a desired configuration corresponding to another of the desired lesions;
 - (f) repeating steps b, c, d and e as necessary provide the desired set of lesions.
2. A method as in claim 1, wherein shaping the shapeable section comprises manually bending the shapable section.
3. A method as in claim 1 wherein shaping the shapeable section comprises bending the shapeable section using a bending fixture.
4. A method as in claim 1 wherein shaping the shapeable section comprises selecting a bending fixture from among a set of fixtures and bending the shapeable section using the selected bending fixture.
5. A method as in claim 1 wherein shaping the shapeable section comprises configuring a bending fixture to define the desired configuration and bending the shapeable section using the configured bending fixture.
6. A method as in claim 1, wherein providing the ablation apparatus comprises selecting an ablation apparatus having a generally straight memorized configuration.

7. A method as in claim 1, wherein selecting the ablation apparatus comprises providing an ablation apparatus having a memorized configuration corresponding to a desired lesion.

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8. A method as in claim 7, comprising employing the ablation apparatus in its memorized configuration to create the desired lesion

9. A method as in claim 1, wherein reshaping the shapeable section comprises heating the shapeable section.

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10. A method as in claim 9, wherein reshaping the shapeable section comprises heating the shapable section by means of a heater mounted to the shapable section.

11. A method as in claim 1, wherein the shapeable section comprises a shape memory material.

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12. A system for providing a desired set of lesions, comprising:

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(a) an ablation apparatus having an elongated shapeable section carrying means for applying ablation energy along the shapeable section, the shapeable section comprising a member of shapeable material, and a sharpened distal tip for piercing atrial wall tissue; and

(b) fixturing means for shaping the shapeable section to display multiple, predetermined configurations corresponding to the desired lesions.

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13. A system as in claim 12 wherein the fixturing means comprises a set of fixtures defining curvatures corresponding to the desired configurations.

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14. A system as in claim 12 wherein the fixturing means comprises a configurable fixture capable of defining multiple curvatures corresponding to the desired configurations.

15. A system as in claim 12 wherein the ablation apparatus comprises an electrosurgical hemostat having elongated shapeable jaws and wherein the bending fixture comprises means for retaining the jaws in a parallel arrangement.

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16. A system as in claim 12, wherein the shapeable section has a generally straight memorized configuration.

17. A system as in claim 12, wherein the shapeable section has a memorized configuration corresponding to a desired lesion.

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18. A system as in claim 12, wherein a heater is located on the shapeable section.

19. A system as in claim 12, wherein the ablation apparatus comprises an electrosurgical hemostat having elongated shapeable jaws having electrodes extending along their length.

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20. A system as in claim 12, further comprising means for delivery of conductive fluid along the length of the electrodes.

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